

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1764

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 COPENHAGEN 3303

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN DA US

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTS ON PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO U.S.

1. THE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, ISSUES OF DENMARK'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS NEWSPAPERS, BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE) AND POLITIKEN (INDEPENDENT LEFT-OF-CENTER) BOTH CARRIED LONG COMMENTS ON THE NOVEMBER 11-13 VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN TO WASHINGTON.

2. UNDER THE HEADLINE "ANKER J. COMES OUT OF THE COLD", BERLINGSKE TIDENDE NOTED THAT ANKER JORGENSEN'S TWO-DAY VISIT TO WASHINGTON THIS COMING WEEK CONSTITUTES THE FIRST BY A DANISH PRIME MINISTER TO THE U.S. SINCE HILMAR BAUNSGAARD'S IN APRIL 1970. DURING THE SUBSEQUENT PERIOD OFFICIAL DANISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAVE BEEN DOWN AND MOVED UP AGAIN, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE.

3. "DURING 1972 AND 1973, EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND COPENHAGEN ON U.S. POLICY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA OCCASIONALLY BECAME SO SHARP THAT THERE WERE RUMORS IN WASHINGTON ABOUT THE TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL OF THE DANISH AMBASSADOR (TO THE U.S.) WHEN EYVIND BARTELS RETURNED TO DENMARK IN DECEMBER 1972 FOR ROUTINE, SEMI-ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS...

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3. "COMMENTS BY THE DANISH GOVERNMENT ON VIETNAM POLICY

WERE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY THE WHITE HOUSE WHERE NIXON, ACCORDING TO LATER REPORTS, TOOK SUCH THINGS PERSONALLY AND ORDERED DISASSOCIATION, OVERRULING MEEK OBJECTIONS BY STATE DEPARTMENT (PARTICULARLY IN CASES OF COUNTRIES ON WHICH U.S. WAS NOT STRONGLY DEPENDENT IN HER FOREIGN POLICY). 'WE HAVE BEEN PUT ON ICE', A DANISH DIPLOMAT NOTED REGRETFULLY ON ONE OCCASION...

4. " AFTER SIGNING OF VIETNAM AGREEMENTS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND HANOI, SOUTHEAST ASIA DISAPPEARED AS THE DECISIVE FACTOR OF TENSION IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND DURING A MEETING OF U.S. AND EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENTS IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN COULD TERM FRICTIONS 'SMALL MISUNDERSTANDINGS' AND ADDED THAT HE, PERSONALLY, HAD NEVER QUESTIONED U.S. MOTIVES IN VIETNAM.

5. "PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN WILL ALSO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF MEETING GERALD FORD INSTEAD OF RICHARD NIXON. AFTER THE LATTER'S RE-ELECTION IN 1972, JORGENSEN SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THE VICTORY OF SENATOR MCGOVERN.

6. "AS A SYMBOL OF RECONCILIATION (BETWEEN DENMARK AND THE U.S.) NIXON AND DANISH PRIME MINISTER POUL HARTLING MET ON THE OCCASION OF THE FUNERAL OF PRESIDENT POMPIDOU IN PARIS...

7. "AS FAR AS ANKER JORGENSEN IS CONCERNED...THE PLANNED MEETING OF 45 MINUTES IN THE WHITE HOUSE THURSDAY AND LUNCH WITH HENRY KISSINGER IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT CAN BE CONSIDERED BY BOTH AS A CONTINUATION OF A RUNNING, NOW FRICTIONLESS DIALOGUE.

8. "IT IS PROBABLY AN INDICATION OF THE EASING OF DANISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS WHEN STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON - AFTER SOME HESITATION - DECLARE THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO FIND ANY PRESSING BILATERAL PROBLEMS CALLING FOR ATTENTION. INSTEAD THEY FOCUS ATTENTION ON DENMARK'S EUROPEAN ROLE WHICH MAY POSE PROBLEMS, SUCH AS NATO'S STENGTH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN; THE GENERAL ECONOMIC UNCLASSIFIED

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SITUATION; THE POLICY OF DETENTE AFTER THE SIGNING OF HELSINKI SECURITY AGREEMENT; AMERICAN STATEMENTS ON THE STATUS OF SOVIET-AMERICAN DISCUSSIONS ON THE MISSILE BALANCE AND TROOP REDUCTIONS; AND THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AFTER SADAT'S RECENT VISIT TO THE U.S.

9. "IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD THERE ARE BILATERAL ISSUES SUCH AS THE MARKED DECLINE IN DANISH EXPORTS TO U.S. DURING

1974 AND THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1975. THEY, HOWEVER, WILL BE CONSIDERED MORE AS A SIGN OF GLOBAL DEPRESSION OR OF DISPUTES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EEC WHICH HAVE LED TO U.S. MOVES AGAINST THE EUROPEAN EXPORT OF STEEL, CARS, CANNED MEAT AND CHEESE AND HAVE TRIGGERED BITTER COMMENTS FROM THE EEC AND CHARGES OF PROTECTIONISM...

10. " IT MAY BE DISCUSSED TO WHAT EXTENT THE U.S. PUBLIC'S VIEW OF DENMARK HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY DISAGREEMENTS ON THE OFFICIAL LEVEL DURING FIVE-AND-ONE-HALF YEARS SINCE THE LAST VISIT BY A DANISH PRIME MINISTER. ATTENTION HAS PROBABLY BEEN FOCUSED ON MISUNDERSTANDINGS CONCERNING DANISH LEGISLATION ON PORNOGRAPHY WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE CREATED A GENERALIZED PICTURE, NOT EXACTLY TO DANISH ADVANTAGE, OR ON NON-POLITICAL STRIFE, LIKE THE ONE ON DANISH SALMON FISHING NEAR GREENLAND. IN JANUARY 1971, THIS MADE 500 U.S. SALMON FISHERMEN, UNDER BING CROSBY'S WELL-MEANING PROTECTION, CRY 'DOWN WITH THE DANES' DURING A MEETING AT THE WALDORF ASTORIA IN NEW YORK.

11. "PERMANENT EFFORTS BY DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPLY THE U.S. PUBLIC WITH MORE FACTUAL INFORMATION ON DANISH CONDITIONS WILL HARDLY BE HELPED BY THE SHORT VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, BUT ONE LOOKS FORWARD TO GREATER RESULTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL AND THE QUEEN'S TWO-WEEK VISIT TO THE U.S. IN MAY."

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1765

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12. EXCERPTS OF THE POLITIKEN STORY, HEADLINED "ANKER AND FORD TO GO THROUGH A 'HEAVY AGENDA'":

"EVEN IF PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN WILL ONLY HAVE RATHER SHORT MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IN WASHINGTON ON THURSDAY, AND EVEN IF THERE ARE NO PRESSING PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE DANES HAVE PROPOSED A RATHER HEAVY AGENDA.

13. "TO EXPEDITE THE AMERICAN PREPARATIONS, THE DANISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS GIVEN THE AMERICAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE A LISTING OF THE POSSIBLE TOPICS THAT THE DANES MIGHT LIKE TO DISCUSS...

14. "ONE OF THE CURRENT QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED IS THE COMING ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING IN PARIS BETWEEN THE 'HEAVY-WEIGHTS' OF THE WESTERN WORLD. THE DANISH MAIN POINT OF VIEW WILL PROBABLY BE THAT AN ARRANGEMENT FOR MORE STABLE CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES SHOULD BE WORKED OUT. SOMETHING THE U.S. AT THE MOMENT IS NOT SUPPORTING. IN THE DANISH GOVERNMENT THERE IS ALSO SOME CONCERN REGARDING A SUMMIT MEETING WITH NO REPRESENTATION OF THE SMALLER NATIONS. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER WILL VOICE THIS CONCERN - THE SUMMIT MEETING IS NOT AN AMERICAN IDEA, BUT A PROPOSAL FORD HAS RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO. DENMARK, MOREOVER, SEES THE MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DIRECT ATTENTION TO THE NATO NORTHERN FLANK AND THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BALTIC SEA AT AT TIME WHEN SOUTHERN EUROPE - FROM TURKEY TO PORTUGAL - HAS STOLEN THE LIMELIGHT. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT GREENLAND WILL BE DEBATED, BOTH THE STRATEGIC ASPECTS AND DANISH PLANS FOR THE FUTURE REGARDING HOME RULE, AS WELL AS THE EXPLOITATION OF GREENLAND ENERGY RESOURCES WHICH PRESUPPOSES MONEY AND EXPERTISE FROM ABROAD.

15. "THE PURCHASE BY THE SMALL NATO COUNTRIES OF AN AMERICAN FIGHTER PLANE IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED. THE PROSPECTS OF DANISH PRODUCTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE PURCHASE, AND THE PROSPECT FOR EMPLOYMENT AND AN IMPROVED BALANCE OF TRADE WHICH MADE THE PURCHASE TEMPTING TO DENMARK, HAVE PROVEN MORE UNCERTAIN THAN INITIALLY EXPECTED AND DANISH CONCERN WILL BE VOICED.

16. "THE DANISH PLAN TO CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE U.S. IN 1976 IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BECOME PART OF THE DANISH-AMERICAN TALKS. ALONG WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, DENMARK HAS BEEN INVITED BY THE U.S. TO TAKE PART IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE BICENTENNIAL.

17. "THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE VISIT MUST, HOWEVER, BE TO STRESS THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE U.S. PLAYS IN DANMISH FOREIGN POLICY AND THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AFTER THE VIETNAM WAR HAD FOR SO LONG BEEN A BURDEN ON THIS RELATIONSHIP. DESPITE THE SHORT DURATION OF THE VISIT, AND EVEN IF IT WILL NOT CAUSE ATTENTION IN WASHINGTON, IT IS AN UNUSUAL EVENT, THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT WASHINGTON SINCE APRIL 1970 WHEN HILMAR BAUNSGAARD VISITED NIXON. THE AMERICANS HAVE SHOWN GREAT WILLINGNESS IN THAT THEY HAVE FITTED THE VISIT INTO THE SCHEDULE WITH A RATHER SHORT NOTICE. DENMARK HAS NOT ONLY INVITED ITSELF BUT ALSO BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO DETERMINE THE DATES, AND FORD AND KISSINGER HAVE CHANGED THEIR SCHEDULES ACCORDINGLY. THIS HAS NOT BEEN EASY FOR DIPLOMATS FROM EITHER COUNTRY, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE UNDERSTOOD THAT POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN DENMARK CAN OFTEN LEAD TO CHAOTIC ARRANGEMENTS."  
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